

UNTOLD

STORY LEADS FROM MONTANA



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A Lesson in Comfort

The 90-year-old Stone School Inn in the tiny town of Valier rests on its original plot. Like a wizened old man, this building has taught a lesson or two.

Using sandstone from a nearby quarry it took local laborers only eight months to construct the building. It initially housed 121 students in four classrooms and served as a school up until 1952 when it was finally closed and abandoned. But recently the building has undergone a transformation. It has been completely reconditioned into a spectacular historic bed and breakfast.

Doug Bowman and his wife Debbie labored for five years to reconstruct the building. Visitors can choose from five refurbished guest rooms, each with a private bath. The rooms are all furnished with antiques and finery from local craftsmen and sport copper beading tile

"It's been a real labor of love."



Stone School Inn in Valier.

that was originally from the Montana State Capitol.

"It's been a real labor of love," says Doug. "It was in pretty tough shape, but it turned out real nice."

Doug is excited to have the inn up and running. "We have been taking guests and, boy, that's the best part." For fun, guests can even slide down the school's fire escape. The Stone School is registered on the National Register of Historic Places.

Located in north-central Montana, the Stone School Inn is surrounded by a range

of attractions. Lake Frances is a stone's throw away and offers great fishing and water sports. Acres of sandstone formations, or hoodoos, make up Rock City, where you can explore for hours. You can also see the site where Lewis and Clark first encountered the Blackfoot Nation or drive west a short distance to see Glacier National Park.

You never thought going back to school could be so much fun. For more information on the Stone School Inn call (406) 279-3796 or log on at www.stoneschoolinn.com.

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Blast from the Past

Did you know that in the northern Rocky Mountains, the Stone Age didn't effectively end until the 19th century? Did you know that the Buffalo Soldiers, the African American infantry stationed at Fort Missoula in the late 1800s, were among the first mechanized infantry units? These facts and many more are all revealed at the Museum of the Rockies' *Weapons that Changed the West: From Flint to Fusion* exhibit that runs from now until March 2002.

This exhibit imparts a living history of how weapons and weaponry have helped shape and change our western culture.

"I haven't seen many exhibits similar to this," explains Shelly McKamey, Assistant Director and Marketing Director for the Museum of the Rockies. "We talk about the human side of the story. You're learning about people.



This is weapons as a part of history. The fact that we have amassed this much makes it unique."

The exhibit displays over 900 artifacts gathered from the museum's extensive collection and 47 private collectors. A few of the things visitors can see include a very

rare Iron-Frame Henry Repeating Rifle, a replica bomb shelter, a Buffalo Soldier uniform, and one of only ten special Anschütz .22-caliber rifles made specifically for the Olympics. The display also provides visitors the opportunity to express and present their thoughts and opinions about the exhibit on a viewpoint wall. Patrons can write their own thoughts or read the thoughts of other patrons.

The Bozeman museum also features a planetarium and a number of dinosaur displays, one of which includes a complete *Tyrannosaurus Rex* skeleton.

For more information on the Museum of the Rockies call (406) 994-2251 or log on to the website at museumoftherockies.org.

Miracles in Montana

Miracles do happen. Just ask Gil Mangles, the 58-year-old proprietor of the Miracle of America Museum in Polson. Gil has spent his entire life collecting evidence of an American miracle.

"We trace America's progress from the walking-plow to walking on the moon in less than 200 years. When you think about it, that's quite a miracle," says Gil.

It is also quite a miracle that one couple could collect and house as many artifacts as the Mangles. Gil and his wife, Joanne, have operated the museum for 16 years now, displaying exhibits that are impressive by sheer variety alone.

"Our diversity covers all interests," says Gil.

It does indeed. From art and music to a drug store soda fountain, the museum has it. You want to see a horse-drawn hearse or a

1954 Harley-Davidson Pan-Head with a sidecar? How about a mousetrap that electrocutes its victim? The museum offers a bit of everything. So much in fact that many visitors have dubbed it "the Smithsonian of the West."



Miracle of America Museum, Polson.

The museum extends over five acres of Montana land in Polson, nestled in a valley just south of Flathead Lake. Driving to the museum is a treat in itself because you traverse some of the most beautiful highways in western Montana.

The Mangles are very proud of their museum and hope visitors learn something while they are there.

"I would like people to walk out with an appreciation of America and the ingenuity of our forefathers and an understanding that our freedoms have responsibilities," says Joanne.

There is so much to see, do, and learn at the museum it is hard to describe, but as one 8th grade patron put it, "it's the awesomest."

For more information on the Miracle of America Museum contact Gil or Joanne at (406) 883-6804 or www.cyberport.net/museum.

On Track with Lewis and Clark

Climb aboard Amtrak's Empire Builder and retrace the footsteps of Lewis and Clark. With a new Trails and Rails program, a national partnership between Amtrak and the National Park Service, passengers aboard the train can now learn more about the Lewis and Clark Expedition and see some of the places they explored.

"With this Trails and Rails program, people will have the opportunity to learn what has and hasn't changed since 1804," said Andrew Banta, Fort Union Trading Post National Historic Site (NHS) Superintendent.

The program will include talks broadcast over the train's intercom in the lounge car and other designated areas. Volunteers will be onboard to chat with passengers and answer any questions. Plus, passengers can take a look at traveling displays throughout the train or read handouts that are available. "This is an excellent out-reach program for the National Park Service to make contact with non-traditional visitors to our national parks and for them to learn more about the Lewis and Clark Expedition," says Banta.

An additional program on the Native American perspective of the journey will coincide with the Lewis and Clark program.



Amtrak's Empire Builder travels from Chicago to Seattle along Montana's Hi-Line, passing through some of the most beautiful country on Earth. Travelers can look out the window and see views ranging from the Missouri River meandering through the plains of eastern Montana to the heavily wooded mountains near Glacier National Park. Stop along the way in Havre or Whitefish to take in some of the local sights. The entire ride across northern Montana is extraordinarily beautiful and relaxing. And now with the Trails and Rails program, you just might learn something along the way.

For more information on the Trails and Rails program or the Empire Builder call Amtrak at 1-800-872-7245. To get more information on the Lewis and Clark Expedition log on to our website at www.visitmt.com.

A Wild Ride in Billings

When Ronald Reagan said "There is nothing better for the inside of a man than the outside of a horse" he wasn't talking about rodeo. In a rodeo the outside of a horse can beat and batter the inside, outside, and any other side of a man in less than eight seconds. And that's all part of the fun.

The top Indian cowboys will meet in Billings, October 25-28, 2001, to compete in the 26th annual Indian National Finals Rodeo.

Located in eastern Montana, Billings is a prime place to hold this competition. It is Montana's largest city and boasts a history of both Native American culture and rodeo competition.

"You have tribes in Montana and Canada, east to the Dakotas, west to Washington and south to New Mexico," says Mel Sampson, president of the Indian National Finals Rodeo (INFR) commission. "It's a rodeo-oriented area."

Over 35 Indian tribes will be represented at the INFR where 12 different Indian rodeo regions will each send their two best riders to compete for top honors.



The competition will highlight eight traditional rodeo events, roughstock and timed.

In the roughstock events, which include bareback bronc, saddlebronc and bullriding, the riders must stay on a bull or horse for eight seconds and are scored by judges. In the timed events of barrel racing, calf-roping, steer wrestling, team roping and breakaway, riders with the fastest time down to the split-second are the winners.

In addition to the rodeo, INFR will showcase a traditional Indian powwow and a western market and trade fair that will sell western merchandise and Indian crafts.

For more information call the INFR at (505) 488-6131 or check out their website at www.infrodeo.com.

Grooming for the Olympics

Over 400 of the top cross-country skiers from the United States will assemble at Bohart Ranch near Bozeman, Montana, to compete in the U.S. Cross-Country Skiing Championships January 5-13, 2002. America's best will vie for the coveted 12 spots on the Olympic team, but only six men and six women can get those spots, so this affair promises to be a profusion of intensity, passion and pressure.



"I think this kind of event, especially the last event before the Olympics, is big pressure on competitors," says Dragan Danevski, a coach for the Bridger Ski Federation team.

Among these top competitors will be Nina Koppel, the all-time U.S. record-holder with 15 U.S. cross-country titles, who is striving to become the first American female cross-country skier to race in four Olympics. Veterans Justin Wadsworth from Bend, Oregon, and Marcus Nash from Fryeburg, Maine, will be competing among the men.

This will be the first time Montana hosts the National Championships, but Bohart Ranch is up to the task. Located in the Bridger Mountain Range, it is well suited for skiers as they prepare for the 2002 games in Utah. "All of these elements are similar to the conditions at Soldier Hollow in Utah where the Olympic events will be held," explains Danevski. "Bohart has a very good trail system, high altitude and good snow conditions."

But you don't have to be an Olympic athlete to enjoy the trails at Bohart Ranch; it's open to the public and offers equipment rentals and lessons. For more information call (406) 586-9070.

SEPTEMBER

- 1 **Fromberg Labor Day Celebration—**
Fromberg 668-7383
- 1 **Pine Needle Stampede-A Foot Race—**
West Yellowstone 646-7744
- 1 **Wild West Day—Bigfork 837-5888**
- 1-3 **Blue Ribbon Artfest—Dillon 683-5511**
- 1-3 **Labor Day Rodeo—White Sulphur Springs**
547-2209
- 1-3 **Labor Day Wagon Train—Culbertson**
787-5821
- 1-3 **Montana Pioneer Days—Big Timber**
932-5339 or 932-5272
- 2 **"Running Of The Sheep" Drive—**
Reed Point 326-2288
- 2-3 **Helmville Labor Day Rodeo—Helmville**
288-3273
- 2-3 **Team Roping & Dance—Custer 856-4167**
- 3 **Labor Day Arts Fair & Wagons West**
Parade—Red Lodge 446-1370
- 4-14 **Undercover Gals Quilt Show—Hardin**
665-2525
- 7 **River's Edge Trail—Blues & Brews—**
Great Falls 453-0601 or 761-4966
- 7-8 **Montana Festival of the Book—Missoula**
243-6022
- 7-9 **Libby Nordicfest—Libby 293-6430**
- 7-9 **Rendezvous & Trade Show—Helena**
442-4008
- 7-9 **Whitefish Summer Games—Whitefish**
862-4035
- 8 **Chokecherry Festival—Lewistown**
538-5436
- 8 **Irish Culture Celebration—Missoula**
721-5733
- 8 **Rapelje Mountain Bike and Fine Arts**
Festival—Rapelje 663-2230 or 663-2194
- 8-9 **Can-Am Antique Show With Toys &**
Dolls—Great Falls 761-4622 or 452-6079
- 8-9 **Medicine Rocks Black Powder**
Shoot—Ekalaka 775-6294 or 775-6886
- 8-9 **Montana Old Time Fiddlers'**
Convention—Lewistown 323-1198
- 8-9 **NW Montana Antique Power Ass'n**
Threshing Bee—8th Annual—Columbia
Falls 892-3142
- 8-9 **Old Settlers Days—Clyde Park 686-4796**
- 9 **Hot Laps Mountain Bike Jam—Missoula**
549-9777 or 543-3331
- 9 **Utica Day Fair—Utica 423-5364**
- 12-17 **Ride the Russell Trail—Utica 423-5454**
- 13-17 **Testicle Festival—Clinton 825-4868**
- 14-15 **Belgrade Fall Festival—Belgrade 388-1616**
- 14-15 **Highland Games Festival—Glasgow**
228-2222
- 14-15 **North American Indian Alliance Pow**
Wow—Butte 782-0461
- 14-15 **Theater in the Park—Glendive 365-6256**
- 14-16 **Havre Festival Days—Havre 265-4383**
- 15 **Quilt Show—Broadus 436-2416**
- 15 **York Fest—Helena 475-3259**
- 15-16 **Big Sky Draft Horse Expo—Deer Lodge**
492-6753 or 846-3686
- 15-16 **Cottonwood Folk Festival—Great Falls**
452-3462
- 15-16 **Threshing Bee—Choteau 466-2470**
- 16 **Canyon Creek Battlefield Pipe**
Ceremony—Laurel 628-8105
- 16 **Historic Bell Street Bridge Day—Glendive**
365-5601

- 17-21 **Native American Awareness Week—Pablo**
675-0160
- 20-22 **Montana Five Rivers Festival of**
Film—Missoula 777-1777 or 777-0090
- 22-23 **Northeast Montana Threshing Bee and**
Antique Show—Culbertson 787-5265
- 28-30 **Bridger Raptor Festival—Bozeman 585-1211**
- 28-30 **Flathead Quilters Guild Annual Quilt**
Show—Kalispell 257-6966
- 28-30 **Last Chance Community Pow**
Wow—Helena 439-5631 or 449-7556
- 30 **Lewis and Clark Marathon—A Journey of**
Discovery—Bozeman 586-5421

OCTOBER

- 5-8 **Alta/Mont Railfan Weekend—Essex**
888-5700
- 6 **23rd Annual McIntosh Apple Day—**
Hamilton 363-3338
- 6 **Blue Mountain All Women's Run—**
Missoula 543-6920
- 6 **Fiesta Days—Whitefish 862-3501**
- 6 **Oktoberfest—Anaconda 563-2422**
- 6 **Old Faithful Fall Cycle Tour—West**
Yellowstone 646-7701
- 6 **Stillwater River Run & Fun**
Walk—Absarokee 328-4775 or 328-4314
- 11-14 **8th Annual Glacier Jazz Stampede—**
Kalispell 862-3814
- 13 **Tamarack Time!—Bigfork 837-4848**
- 13-14 **Glacier Golden Autumn Arts and**
Crafts Show and Sale—Essex 888-5700
- 17-21 **NILE Stock Show and Rodeo—Billings**
256-2495
- 19 **Hunters' Feed and Wild Game Cook-**
Off—Ennis 682-5357
- 26-27 **Lewistown Gun Show—Lewistown**
538-5436
- 27 **18th Annual Autumn Art & Craft**
Show—Helena 449-4790
- 27 **Ghost Walks—Bannack 834-3413**
- 27 **Hunters Banquet—Winnett 429-6221**
- 27-28 **Christmas at the Mansion—Kalispell**
755-2166

NOVEMBER

- 1-30 **Yellowstone Rendezvous Nordic Ski**
Camp—West Yellowstone 646-7701
- 3 **Big Timber Christmas Bazaar and**
Craft Show—Big Timber 932-6720
- 3 **Wine and Food Festival—Sidney**
488-2273
- 3 **Winter Fair—Choteau 466-5340**
- 3-4 **Havre Art Association Annual Show &**
Sale—Havre 265-2729
- 8-11 **Christmas Collection—Great Falls**
727-8255
- 9-11 **Huff's Antique Show and Sale—Billings**
628-4493
- 10 **Country Christmas—Lewistown 428-2316**
- 11 **Helmville Craft Bazaar—Helmville**
793-5530
- 16 **Downtown Helena Fall Art**
Walk—Helena 447-1535
- 16-17 **Annual Holiday Market**
Place—Missoula 543-8798
- 16-18 **Holiday Antiques Sale—Great Falls**
761-1999

- 17 **Bigfork Elves Decorate for**
Christmas—Bigfork 837-5888
- 17 **Cut Bank Winter Festival—Cut Bank**
873-5544 or 873-2337
- 17-18 **Holiday Food Festival & Seasonal**
Creations Craft Show—Billings
657-1246 or 657-1440
- 18 **Specialty Fair—Malta 654-1436**
- 18-12/30 **Miniatures: The Little Picture Show**
and Vranna Sue Hinck: Light
Hexagram—Miles City 232-0635
- 20-12/25 **Holiday Market Room—Lewistown**
538-8278
- 20-1/2 **Christmas at the Moss Mansion—**
Billings 256-5100
- 23 **Christmas City of the North**
Parade—Kalispell 758-2800
- 23 **Christmas Stroll—Anaconda 563-3731**
- 23 **Christmas Stroll and Parade of**
Lights—Sidney 482-1916
- 23 **Christmas Walk and Parade of**
Lights—Forsyth 356-2111
- 23 **Crazy Mountain Christmas—Big Timber**
932-5131
- 23 **Holiday Parade—Billings 259-5454**
- 23 **Parade of Lights—Chinook 357-2224**
- 23-24 **Holiday Festival of the Arts—Bozeman**
586-3333 or 587-8298
- 23-25 **Artists and Craftsmen of the Flathead**
Christmas Show—Kalispell 881-4288
- 23-25 **Renaissance Fair—Missoula 538-2212**
- 24 **Christmas Stroll—Havre 265-4383**
- 24 **Holiday Light Parade—Glendive 365-5601**
- 24 **Madison Valley Women's Club**
Holiday Craft Bazaar—Ennis 682-5629
- 24 **North Pole Stroll—Ennis 682-4388**
- 24-12/23 **3rd Annual Christmas Socials and**
Market—Virginia City 843-5220
- 29-12/2 **Festival of Trees—Billings 252-9799**
- 29-12/2 **Festival of Trees—Helena 442-7920**
- 30 **Christmas Stroll—Butte 782-1605**
- 30 **Conrad Christmas Stroll—Conrad**
278-7791
- 30-12/1 **Christmas Comes to Life and Festival**
of Trees—Libby 293-4167
- 30-12/1 **Christmas Stroll—Red Lodge 446-1718**

FROM MONTANA

The diversity of events, places and people in Montana is almost as wide as the state itself. We hope to give you a taste of that diversity with this quarterly newsletter. In addition, my office offers these services to editors, writers and producers.

Visual Materials

Color slides, 8"x 10" B/W photos and stock video footage are available for editorial use.

Writer/Photographer Referrals

We can put you in contact with many of Montana's most talented and experienced freelance writers and photographers.

Editorial Copy/Calendar of Events

We can provide background information or editorial copy for many subjects. We also maintain a calendar of events for the entire state.

Individual Attention

If you need the latest vacation guide and road map of Montana, a liaison with other government agencies or detailed information to fit a specific story angle, we're here to assist you.

Mary Boyle, Publicity Coordinator

For a complete list of events, see us at visitmt.com